

Application No. 10/627,483
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 3-11 are pending, claim 3 being the only independent claim.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Applicants have made the amendments suggested by the Examiner, and otherwise amended the claims to overcome the rejections, and now respectfully submit that new claims 3-11 fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Regarding claim 3, as amended, it is noted that **not** all amino acids are covered (see Examiner comments on pages 5-6), but only γ -methylene glutamic acid, glutamic acid and aspartic acid, or γ -methylene glutamate.

Claims 3-5, 7 and 8, Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected the claims 3-5, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yan in view of House. Independent claim 3 is directed to a process for synthesizing a compound of Formula Ib, using a modified Wittig reaction, as in House. Nevertheless, the claimed process is the first successful execution of this reaction on a pteridine moiety or a quinazoline moiety. The reaction can be applied broadly in the synthesis of MDAM, L-MDAM, M-TREX and similar antifolate compounds that have the C-C bridging between the central aromatic core, with the pteridine moiety. The reaction provided a much better yield than would be expected. See Declaration of Harry Kochat, included herewith.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully solicited.

Claims 9-11, Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected the claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yan in view of House, citing certain decisions and stating: "merely reversing the order of steps in a multi-step process does not impart patentability to the claimed process in the absence of unexpected results." As set forth in the Declaration of Harry Kochat, the reaction yield with the claimed process was much better than expected, and accordingly, the rejection of these claims should also be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

If advancement of the prosecution of this application could be enhanced by a telephone conference between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney, the Examiner is invited to so contact the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

YE WU *et al.*

By: 

(Date)

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